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Letter from the Editor

A14
Year Book 2014
published by

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Editor: Alan Choat

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Dear Readers

This edition of our Year Book is really a tribute to the endeavour of some of our local businesses to survive and, indeed, expand during the last few years of the economic disaster inherited from the last Labour government.

At an initial cost to themselves they have analysed the market place, streamlined their businesses and have subsequently thrived by offering excellent service, dependability and keen prices, which has allowed them to recruit more staff.

We are particularly keen to promote local business and have deliberately invited the higher quality examples to not only advertise, but to provide editorial that emphasises the drive and local aspect of their positive attitude to the local community.

We are also delighted that one of our main sponsors, VALIANT WAR TOURS has recognised the importance of next year's centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. They are running special tours from Cambridge to educate and celebrate the bravery and courage of many local men. They also offer their services to provide presentations to local clubs, societies and organisations, giving comprehensive understanding of the development of events and battles over the next four years and even of the causes of the "War to end all wars!"

The development and improvement of the A14 is, of course, a matter that affects the lives of most of us, "To toll or not to toll?"

If it gives us a better, more reliable road, then good, but planners must ensure that we're 30 years in front of the game and that we don't have to endure this absurd process every ten years.

A toll of £1.50 is insignificant if it saves time and resources. The minimum wage is nearly £7.00 per hour, the cost of running a vehicle probably the same, so the saving of a quarter of an hour makes sense for everyone.

I do believe, however, that foreign lorries should pay a tax to drive on and destroy our roads, as our lorries pay on the continent. So much for level playing fields! A British lorry has to pay tax of £200 for a week in Europe.

Anyway, enough of this xenophobia! We are definitely improving our economic situation, both at home and internationally, let's look forward to next year's prosperity and also 'REMEMBER' to celebrate Britain's crucial role in stopping oppression during the WW1 centenary period.

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Robert Sturdy MEP

What does Free Trade really mean?

When you hear about free trade agreements in the news, they often sound like large agreements that only benefit large corporations. However, these trade deals do have a real impact on our everyday lives. Take for instance the upcoming deal between the European Union and the United States, launched at the G8 summit hosted by the UK last month.

It is estimated that this agreement will save each household in the UK £380 per year. But what does this number mean? It means that through the elimination tariffs on products ranging from cars to meat to electronics, consumers benefit directly. It also means that it will be easier for US companies to invest in the EU, creating more jobs for UK citizens. Some studies suggest an additional 400,000 jobs for the UK alone.

The EU will try to get the US to accept our list of Geographical Indications, a list of quality agricultural products originating from a certain region in the EU. Therefore, great British products like Newmarket Sausages will be officially recognised in the US market, benefiting small and medium enterprises across the Eastern region.

However, rest assured that just because it is easier to import and export products it does not mean that we are lowering our environmental, social or health standards. The EU and US, as industrialised regions, provide high levels of consumer protection. During negotiations, they will be looking to find areas where they can accept common standards in order to cut red tape and reduce administrative burden.

Free trade is not about opening up our country and values to an invasion from the United States, but rather a controlled way of opening our market so that it is a win-win for businesses and consumers on both sides of the pond.

Free trade agreements of this kind are the best way to boost growth, create jobs and stimulate the economy.

Daisy Chains

Histon is a thriving and popular village, with a strong sense of community, so seemed the perfect location to start a new business, back in June 2005. It helped hugely that we are both Histon girls, and already had a good insight into our customer base. We both feel (and it has been proven over the 8 years we have been trading), that our location has helped us achieve a successful business being within easy access of the A14/M11 and surrounding villages. Also, we have free parking in the Village which is an advantage, with the rising costs of parking in Cambridge city centre. Originality is high on our agenda, and we strive to stock beautiful gifts for every occasion that are out of the ordinary, buying in small quantities so we can change the stock regularly. Please come in and see us, you won't be disappointed.

Alison Douglas & Lesley Nunn.
Daisy Chain – Independent Gift Shop. Histon.

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Jim Paice M.P.

Conservatives

Many of you will know that I have campaigned hard for many years to secure investment to improve the A14 and so I am delighted that the Government confirmed major investment in the A14 in the most recent Spending Review.

This major investment will see the construction of a Huntingdon bypass as well as widening of the existing road between Milton and Girton with work expected to begin in 2018. Preliminary work to widen the section of the A14 between Histon and Milton has also been given the go-ahead with an extra lane due to be added in both directions in 2014.

I am working closely with the County Council to try and ensure that the plans include adequate noise mitigation for residents close to the A14 in Impington, but ultimately I am of the firm opinion that this upgrade is good news for our local area. Making the A14 fit for purpose will mean fewer queues and more reliable journey times and so will encourage further investment in our local communities and local businesses.

Cambridgeshire is already a fantastic place to live with a vibrant local economy and some of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, but we must never sit back on our laurels and take that for granted. Investing in the A14 will continue to ensure that Cambridgeshire remains open for business.

Save Money with Green Heat

Green Heat have won many awards for their work over the past 22 years including Domestic Heating Installer of the Year 2 times for helping home owners with cost effective solutions to provide efficient and well controlled heating and hot water systems. This has not only helped to save many thousands of pounds on fuel bills but also helped reduce over 500,000 Tonnes of carbon dioxide. Green Heat are also accredited to provide impartial advice and are registered with Trading Standards – Buy with Confidence scheme and can be trusted to provide expert impartial advice, professional installation and compliance with Building Regulations.

In addition to being Gas-Safe registered Green Heat are also approved installers for all the leading boiler manufacturers including Worcester Bosch who have just received the "Best Buy" accolade from "Which" for the second year running.

Don't Shut the Door on the Dirt

You may have seen his shiny white van with this slogan on the back, Paddy Kelly is here to clean your oven!

He could be visiting you to clean your oven, hob and extractor. He can do any combination from one of them to all of them. Every job is a little different but it could take him from 1 to 4 hours to clean your oven till it shines like a new pin. The bigger ranges and AGA`s can be time consuming but do come up well.
OvenPad is a cleaning service set up by Paddy who has 26 years engineering experience so he knows how to handle metal. "I was one of those people made redundant in the recession and so decided to set up a business in a niche area" he explains. "I now apply some of the skills gained in an international engineering company to "engineer" clean shiny cookers."

Paddy is based in Burwell, but covers a wide area in his special van with Cambridge, Newmarket and Isleham amongst his regular destinations. Give him call on 01638 742703 to see how he can give your cooker a makeover!

Financing the Final Furlong

The good news: a) the fastest growing portion of the UK population is the 85+ year olds and b) one in six people alive today will live to 100. The bad news is that many senior citizens are going to find it increasingly difficult to finance older age.

That's particularly so if you don't work in the public sector and so don't benefit from a generous final salary pension. The rest of us- the financially-exercised hoi polloi – have to suffer a nasty combo of rock bottom pension annuity and interest rates which may well persist for some time.

But doing nothing is not the answer. Anybody contemplating retirement however near to retirement needs to plan for retirement and that means making some big decisions. One is when to retire. Your parents probably retired in the 60s; you probably cannot afford to. And if you want to retire, retire slowly, go part-time. If you can afford to, roll-up your state pension and possibly earn annual (non-compounded) interest of over 10%. Amazing and I am doing that. Next, accept some risk on some of your cash. Do you want to earn 1% interest with no risk or 5% (possibly tax free within an Isa) with some risk? These are the sort of questions you need to ask yourself- and sooner the better.

Nigel Bolitho IFA Cottenham

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Chimneys and Open Fires

An open fire in your home is a hazardous area. The variety of fuels that can be burned and the way that sparks and embers can find themselves thrown beyond the hearth means that home owners with open fires need to be especially vigilant. Whatever fuel you burn, it is important that the chimney is kept clean and you do not allow soot or ash to build up.

Last winter in Cambridgeshire there were over 100 chimney fires in homes. A total of 35 of these occurred in South Cambs.

Follow the steps below to enjoy your open fire safely:

- Have your chimney swept at least once a year, or more frequently if you burn wood
- Avoid burning resinous woods as soot builds up quickly
- Burn only suitable fuels
- Do not overload the grate or appliance
- Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn down well before you retire to bed
- Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks or embers before you go to bed
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure that it has the kite mark or conforms to a relevant British / European standard
- Do not place objects on or over the mantle-piece which may cause you to stand too close to the fire to reach or use them
- Inspect your chimney breast regularly - particularly in the roof space - to ensure that it is sound and that sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

If you do nothing else to protect your home and your family, ensure you fit a smoke alarm that has the kite mark and conforms to British Standard 5446 (Part 1). Test the smoke alarm at least once a week by pressing the test button and know the life span of your battery - mark your calendar as a reminder to replace it.

For further advice, contact your local fire station, or log onto www.cambsfire.gov.uk

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Tumbling Tots

Tumble Tots was designed by an ex-national Olympic Gymnastics coach. Over the last 34 years it has grown to become the leading national activity programme for children aged between 6 months and 7 years.

We've all heard in the news that there has been a massive rise in childhood obesity. Coming along to Tumble Tots helps provide part of the 3 hours of physical activity that the government says young children need each day. It also helps to foster a love of physical exercise from an early age. How many children don't enjoy doing roly polys or climbing and jumping?

The programme is designed to help build children's self-confidence and self-esteem by helping to develop the physical skills of climbing, agility, balance and coordination of pre-school children.

The popular classes have been running in this area for more than 6 years. During that time we've seen hundreds of children and babies grow in confidence and ability through the fun classes we provide. We run the Tumble Tots programme because it 's FUN, children really enjoy themselves, not realising that they are learning essential skills for life including social skills and language development as well as all the physical skills.

For further details of classes and to check availability please call Karen on 01353 661255 or go to www.tumbletots.com/ely .

TUMBLE TOTS NURSERY

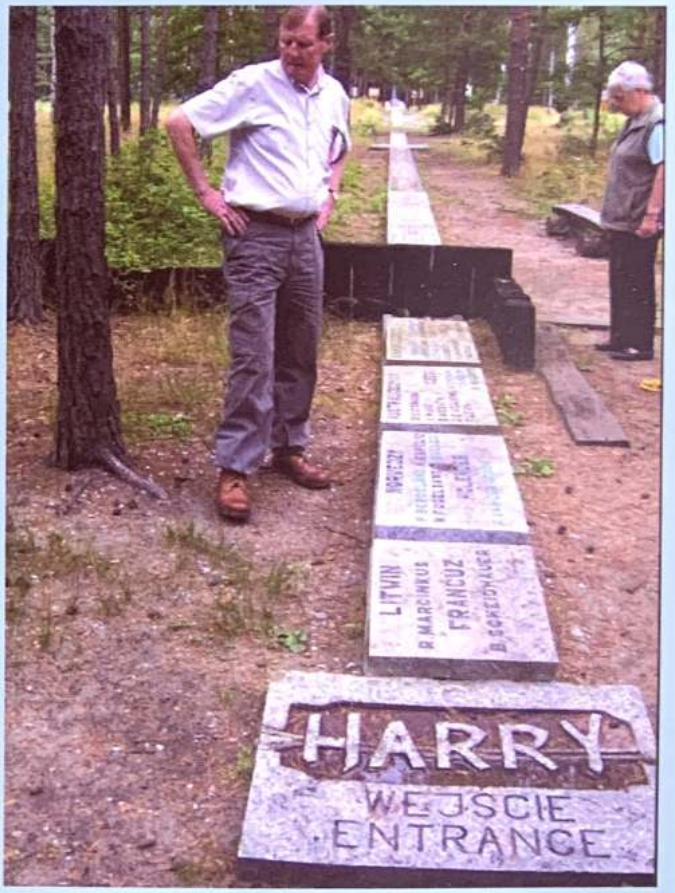
Find us and let your children have fun in Bar Hill Church on Thursday mornings. Playing, exploring and building their young muscles.

For information on our classes
call Karen on 01353 661255 or email on karen.sivyer@tumbletots.com
www.tumbletots.com/ely

Local Personalities

Krista the dynamic Manager of **The Baron of Beef**

Sharone Freed, certainly doesn't sit on the **Colourfence**



A Valiant War Tour visits Stalag Luft III, site of **'The Great Escape'**.

Local Personalities

The famous ***"Billy"*** (rear right) and his **Kwik Fit** team

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Terms and Conditions as a Marketing Tool

Most people think of terms and conditions as a way of limiting the exposure of a business. However, terms which exclude or limit liability may be wholly unenforceable if they fail to comply with consumer protection laws, particularly if they are not fair and reasonable. For example, a term that provides that the customer shall have no right to damages in respect of late deliveries will often be unenforceable.

Given the restrictions on the use of negative terms which exclude or limit liability, it is worth considering the possibility of replacing them with positive commitments which might be attractive to potential customers. For example, instead of excluding the right to damages for late deliveries, a business could agree to refund the consumer if the business is not able to deliver goods on time.

If negative terms can be changed into positive terms that benefit the customer and take account of the relevant consumer protection regulations they are more likely to stand up in court and they could also be used as a marketing opportunity give a business an edge over its competitors.

Adam Weston, solicitor,
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Letter from John Reynolds

County Councillor, John Reynolds
john.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel 01954 200571

A14 UPGRADE Report

Dear Residents.

I have attempted to set out below a simplified report on this major upgrade that will affect every resident. It is clear that a lot of thought has gone into these changes and there is much to applaud in them. I am uneasy about the addition noise and traffic that may affect Bar Hill and the proposals for the interchanges at Dry Drayton and Lolworth.

The Consultation is billed as an Informal Consultation and is being hurried through. However, the information needed to make an informed judgment only appeared towards the end of the consultation. The technical review contains real information (such as maps!) and is at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/243999/a14-technical-review-of-options.pdf

Unfortunately it is 13.2MB so if you have a BT broadband connection it will take a while to download!

The HA website dealing with this consultation is at:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/

The report explains the current problems
The A14 currently carries 85,000 vehicles per day. 25% of these are HGVs (10% is the normal proportion). Traffic is predicted to grow by 26% by 2025. It is anticipated that the Cambridge sub-region will grow by 25%, with 28% Housing growth and 22% Employment growth.

The Proposed Upgrade section Swavesey to Milton

1. From Swavesey to Milton the A14 will be widened to dual 3-lane (Bar Hill to Girton dual 4-lane). The Girton-Histon section has already been approved and work on it starts early next year. The Dry Drayton interchange with the A14 will be closed. These roads will not be tolled.

2. There will be an untolled single carriageway road for local traffic between Swavesey and Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, with intersections at Bar Hill and Dry Drayton.

Some detailed road changes
The junction at Swavesey will be modified and a new single carriageway local access road will be built to Bar Hill, North of the A14.

The junction at Bar Hill will be remodelled and increased in scale.

The B1050 connections will become dual carriageway (though only for a short distance.

Further dualling will be Northstowe-funded.) The local access road from Swavesey will continue on (via an underpass) to Dry Drayton, with link roads giving it access to the B1050 and to the A14.

The junction at Dry Drayton will no longer connect to the A14. The local road from Bar Hill will cross the A14 over the present bridge and will continue South ofA14 to allow access to Huntingdon Road (but not to the M11 or the Northern Bypass).

Cycling Provision
The HA will work together with the County to try to ensure that the local road between Swavesey and Huntingdon Road includes provision for cyclists.

Pedestrian /Cyclist/Equestrian traffic need to be able to cross the A14 at Swavesey

Yours

John Reynolds
County Councillor.
Bar Hill Division

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75 Years and Still Growing

Aspinall and Sons, now under the management of Andrew, is a family firm which has been a reliable local supplier of building materials since the Second World War, nearly 75 years for those that know their history.

The Company has recently completed an expansion move to Norman Park, Over, from their original base at the Willingham Crossroads, nearly tripling the area and selection of products. Andrew is extremely proud of the advice that his staff are able to proffer to both trade and private customers and the success of this local Company is largely due to his grounding and experience of selecting good materials at a good price that he passes on.

There is Everything to Beef About!

The **Baron Of Beef,** one of the oldest pubs in Cambridge, is now in the capable and traditional hands of **Krista**, traditional because she maintains the high standards of Service and Hospitality of her parents, who ran the **Baron** before her.

Krista keeps a spotless pub with welcoming staff, an award winning range of beers,ales and wines, a comprehensive, reasonably priced menu and a secret garden, (very rare in central Cambridge). The **Baron** enjoys a perfect location for a Shopping Trip, Lunch or an evening venue as it lies between the arrival and departure Bus stops in Bridge Street and is adjacent to the Park street Car park.

Earlier in the year, **Krista**, laid on "Bridge Street Beer Festival", in which she featured over 50 Real Ales, **Krista** then followed this up with a refreshing Cider and Perry Festival.

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F W Cook Funeral Service has been trading in Willingham since 1961, it is now run by Andrew Cook, the son of the founder, and his wife Kay. They remain an entirely independent family owned and run business, proudly serving the local community.

Andrew and Kay both hold the National Association of Funeral Directors Diploma of Funeral Directing.

All funerals are arranged entirely in accordance with the families wishes, including the time and venue of the service, choice of coffin, supply of service sheets if required.

Andrew and Kay endeavour to source whatever their clients require, be it eco- friendly coffins, horse drawn hearses, special funeral stationery, special music etc.

They have for many years been members of the National Association of Funeral Directors, with all funerals carried out in accordance with their code of practice.

Additionally they are able to assist with pre arrangement funerals through the Golden Charter Scheme.

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Top Local Service

At last,we seem to have obtained the Taxi Service that we deserve in the area. **ALPHA CARS**, which is based in Over,is setting itself high standards and rapidly building a solid client base in both Private and Corporate hire.

The three Directors, **John, Simon and Daniel**, all have many years experience in the business and agree that Local clients require clean,modern,comfortable cars and smart, friendly, courteous, punctual drivers.

To this end,they provide a modern fleet of vehicles, with Sat Nav for accuracy and drivers who are criminal record checked and fully licensed, with excellent local and long distance knowledge.

Apart from providing a vital local service around the Villages, **ALPHA** also provide a great value Airport Service and because of the high quality of their cars and standard of drivers, also offer Corporate pick ups and chauffeuring in their portfolio.

John, Simon and Daniel confirmed to us that the backbone of **ALPHA CARS** would be the promise of Quality, Reliability and Value. That seems to tick all the boxes!

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Alan's Carpets

The eponymous **Alan** learnt his craft over 25 years with two of the most respected names in Cambridge; Eaden Lilley and Robert Sayle.

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Don't Paint Let it Rain

Sharone Freed is a classic example of 'Business Drive' in our area.

He needed a fence for his home, liked the quality of the product and bought into the Company and is now responsible for all Colourfence installations in Cambridgeshire.

These smart fences are steel based and coated with a mixture of zinc and aluminium, which gives the fence a 25 year guarantee, although the estimated life of a Colourfence is projected to be an astonishing 90 years, which will outlive any wooden fence, without maintenance, apparently heavy showers, of which we have a few, will keep the fence clean.

That means 25 years of peace of mind, so no more painting, fixing or replacing fence panels and posts. What a bargain when you move to a new house and what a selling point if you move. The fences come in 4 colours, of which brown and green are the most popular, although blue and cream are available.

Colourfence are based in Bottisham and were established in 2007, they have over 650 installations to their credit, 35 in Bar Hill alone.

Sales Team Doubled due to Ongoing Sucess

Due to their continued success- **haart**, Bar Hill have recently double their sales staff in order to cope with the demand for property in this area. Branch Manager Harriet Harvey explains-

We at **haart**, Bar Hill have benefited from their prominently positioned office for a number of years, servicing the Villages north of Cambridge. Last year with myself Daniel Sumner and Dominic Clements heading up the sales teams, we recognised that by introducing two more negotiators this Spring, Benjamin Osborne and Victoria Dudley, we could not only manage a larger client base of purchasers, but also offer a more personal and tailored service to our vendors. Providing accompanied viewings 7 days a week, phones answered until 10pm every day and more contact from us, with support and constructive feedback as to how we can achieve the best price for their property.

Working closely with our flag ship office in Regent St, Cambridge together with Great Shelford, we know the property market in Cambridge remains untouched by the difficult economic times we are seeing and the Villages in which we specialise - Bar Hill, Oakington, Longstanton, Rampton, Willingham, Earith, Bluntisham, Over, Swavesey, Fen Drayton, Fenstanton, Hilton, Papworth Everad, Boxworth, Elsworth, Caldecote, Hardwick, Dry Drayton- continue to benefit from this buoyant market, with many people moving here for employment and seeing the outlying villages more affordable and an opportunity to be part of a bustling community. With much of the area within the catchment for the highly regarded Swavesey Village College and now the successful guided bus, we have recently dealt with sealed bids and offers exceeding asking price due to multiple buyers. Demand for property here is high and we believe this area will only grow further in popularity.

If you are considering selling your property, are just curious to know the value of your home or looking to purchase- please contact **Harriet Harvey on 01954 781411 or harriet.harvey@haart.co.uk**

Colourfence

the smart choice for long lasting, low maintenance fencing

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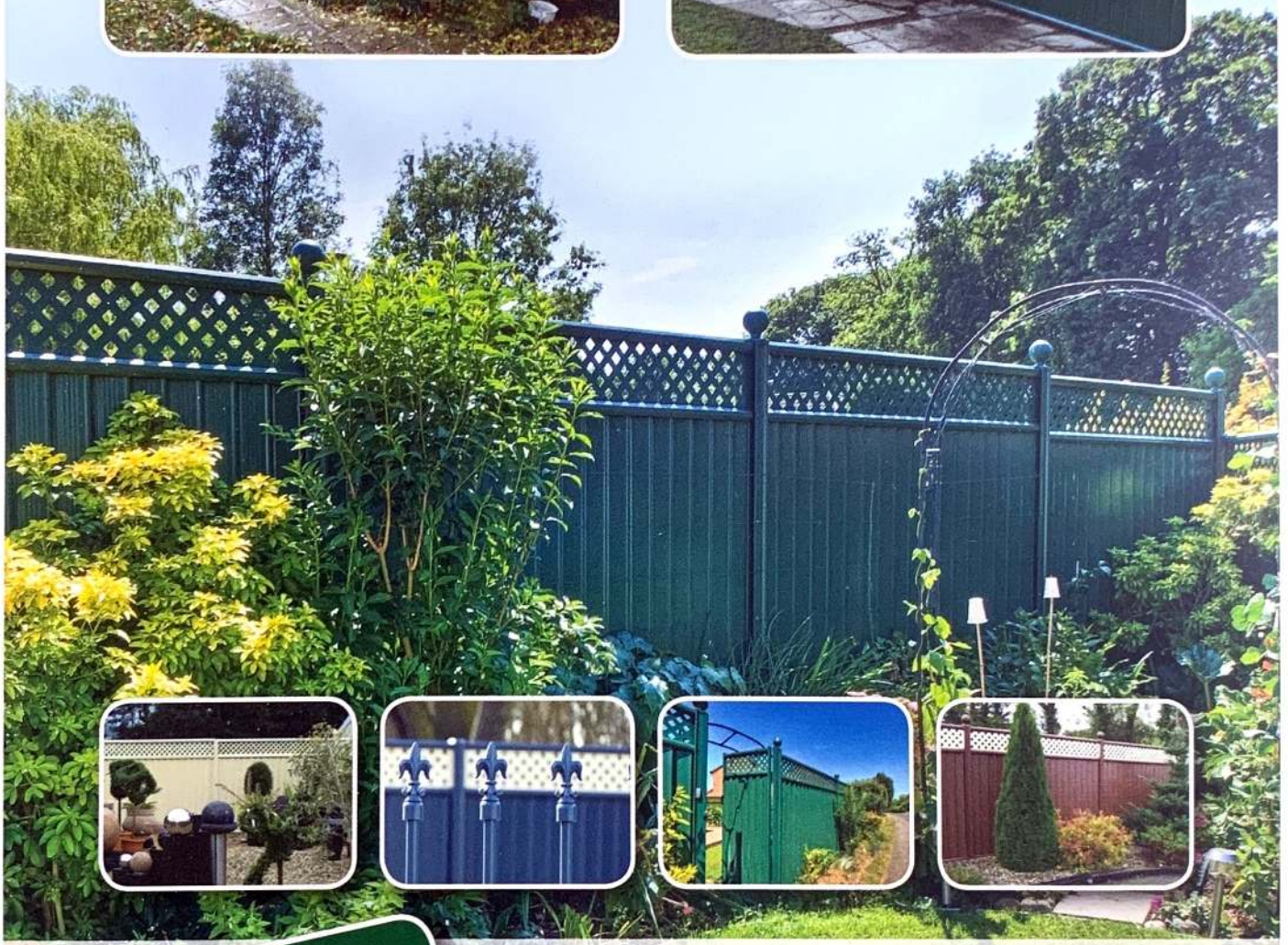
(DETAILS OVERLEAF)



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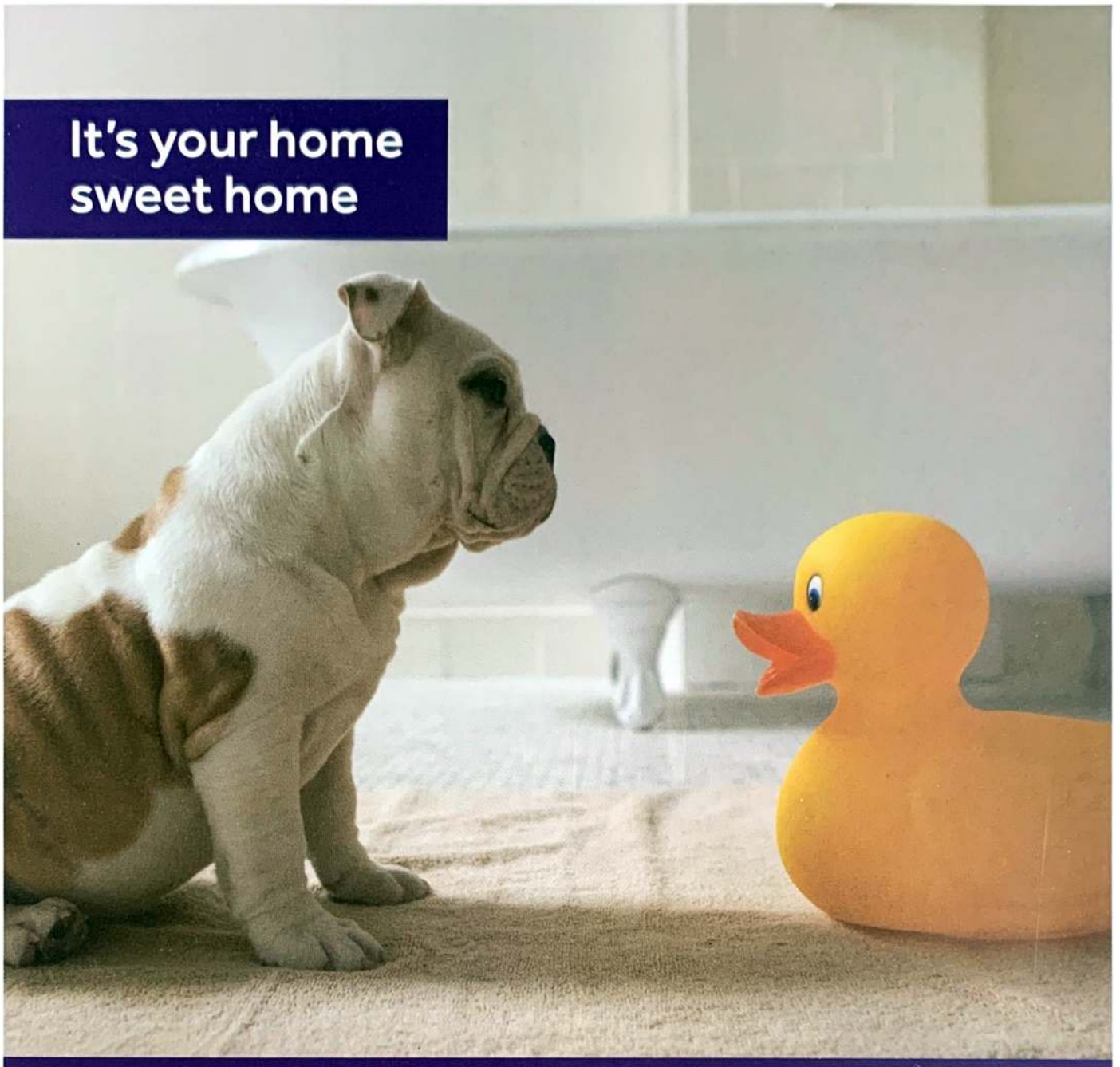

We know the market inside out, but you know your home better than anyone. So we'll ask you what makes it special.

Why? Because getting the best result is all about matching the right person to the right home. So the more we know about yours, the better.

To find out how we can assist you with a free valuation of your home call **01954 781 411** 8am to 10pm everyday

haart of BAR HILL

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